

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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DRAFTED BY ARA:WDROGERS:CJS

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

ARA:WGBOWDLER (DRAFT)

S/S:JPMOFFAT

P:JSISCO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235283

EXDIS TOSEC 128

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: QUITO AND SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. I REACHED RABASA LAST NIGHT FIRST TO THANK HIM FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY OF THE MEXICAN NATION AND SECOND TO SAY THAT ON REFLECTION A PROPOSAL FROM HIM TO ECUADOR TO SHIFT THE DATE OF THE MFM, FOR WHATEVER OSTENSIBLE REASON, WOULD BE AWKWARD. HE AGREED AND WITHDREW HIS PROPOSAL, OBSERVING THAT IF WORD CAME BACK AS TO THE REASON FOR THE CHANGE IT WOULD QUOTE HURT ALL OF US UNQUOTE. HE STATED THAT THERE WAS NEVERTHELESS A QUOTE GENERAL FEELING UNQUOTE THAT ALTHOUGH YOUR TASKS ELSEWHERE WERE IMPORTANT THE NEWS THAT YOU WOULD NOT ATTEND QUITO QUOTE WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED UNQUOTE AND WOULD NOT SIT WELL WITH THE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO FELT OBLIGED TO ATTEND. IF THE US IS TO VOTE AGAINST LIFTING THE SANCTIONS HE THOUGHT YOUR PRESENCE WOULD BE A MISTAKE. IF THE US IS TO ABSTAIN HE STRONGLY THINKS YOU SHOULD BE THERE. HE IS AWARE THAT THE FINAL FIRM COMMITMENT ON YOUR PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED

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ITINERARY IS NOW THE ROME MEETING, AND THAT YOU MAY BE IN

WASHINGTON DURING THE QUITO AFFAIR. HE WANTED TO CALL LUCIO PAREDES AND HINT THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE YOU MIGHT DROP BY QUITO FOR THE FINAL VOTE. HE PROPOSED TO HIS ECUADOREAN COLLEAGUE AS TO THE EXACT DATE AND HOUR OF THE

VOTE. I RESTRAINED HIM. HE HAS AGREED NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR PRESENCE TO ANYONE UNLESS AND UNTIL I OR YOU CALL HIM.

2. SO FAR THE ONLY FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WE KNOW IS NOT GOING IS VIGNES, THIS BECAUSE OF QUITO'S ALTITUDE.

3. IF YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST AFTER ROME, I THINK YOUR ABSENCE AT QUITO WILL BE REGRETTEED BUT MUCH BETTER UNDERSTOOD.

4. PUBLICLY WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN THAT YOUR SCHEDULE OF TRIPS THROUGH ROME WAS SET BEFORE THE QUITO DATE WAS SELECTED AND THAT YOU WILL PROBABLY BE IN MIDDLE EAST FOLLOWING ROME. THIS IS BASIC REASON WHY YOU HAVE REQUESTED YOUR FIRST DEPUTY TO ATTEND IN YOUR STEAD. THIS MAY TONE DOWN, BUT WILL NOT ENTIRELY TURN OFF, SOME OF THE INTRICATE PSYCHO-POLITICAL ANALYSES OF YOUR DECISION WHICH WE MAY EXPECT IN SOME LATIN QUARTERS.

5. I AM SENDING YOU BY SEPTTEL FOR YOUR CONCURRENCE A DRAFT FYI TELEGRAM FOR OUR AMBASSADORS ON THE REASONS FOR YOUR ABSENCE FROM QUITO. I WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE DRAFT TEXT OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EVE OF THE MEETING WHEN IT IS CONCLUSIVE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. INGERSOLL

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